

October 12, 2000

Director (00/21)
All VBA Regional Offices and Centers

Fast Letter (00-77)

SUBJ: Burial Flags for Former Members of Selected Reserve

1. Section 517 of Public Law 105-261 amends 38 U.S.C. 2301 to provide that VA shall furnish a burial flag for each deceased member or former member of the Selected Reserve who is not otherwise eligible for a flag.
2. In order to be eligible for a burial flag the deceased must have completed at least one enlistment as a member of the Selected Reserve or, in the case of an officer, completed the period of initial obligated service as a member of the Selected Reserve; or must have been discharged from the Selected Reserve for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; or must have died while a member of the Selected Reserve. A burial flag may not be issued if the individual's discharge was under dishonorable conditions for VA purposes.
3. Thus far we have received only incomplete information from the DoD as to what is acceptable service verification. Therefore until further instructed you should take a liberal approach to verification. Generally speaking copies of orders transferring a service member to the inactive reserve, an NGB Form 22, copies of orders indicative of sufficient and honorable service such as promotion orders, orders awarding citations such as the good conduct medals or medals for length of service, or a service commendation medal would be included. Also included are certificates indicating completion of a leadership or advanced skill training course. This list is not all inclusive.
4. The provisions of this legislation may be applied to deceased qualifying reservists without regard to the date of death.
5. The Compensation and Pension Service will amend M21-1 to reflect these changes in law.
6. This letter is rescinded April 1, 2002.

/s/
Robert J. Epley, Director
Compensation and Pension Service